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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the second paragraph of page 3 as follows --

Substantially hygienically satisfactory toothbrushes can be produced by molding processes or thermoplastic joining processes, to which the method according to the independent claims preamble of claim 1 relates. The fastening-side ends of the bristles are then provided with thickenings with which they are either pressed or shaped into the soft plastic mass of the bristle carrier or are placed in an injection mould, in which the bristle carrier molten mass is injection molded around the thickenings. This makes it possible to attain overall bristle carrier heights of 3.0 to 4.5. The limit is determined here again by the bristle embedding length offering the necessary extraction resistance. The requirement for a limited overall bristle carrier height is more particularly in conflict with the requirements of an adequate extraction resistance if account has to be taken of the further requirement in modern dentistry for a flexible behavior of the bristle configuration. This presupposes a corresponding flexibility of the bristle carrier and consequently a specific plastic choice and/or design measures. Through the flexibilizing of the bristle carrier the extraction resistance of the bristles is reduced, because the bristles are no longer held in a rigid environment. This more particularly applies if wholly or partly rubber-like materials, such as elastomers are used for the bristle carrier. --.